

Serial No.: 09/586,484

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The inflation assembly of claim 13 wherein at least a portion of the supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material comprises a plurality of cylindrical annular-shaped grains axially aligned end to end along the length of the tubular member.

3. (previously presented) The inflation assembly of claim 2 wherein the cylindrical annular-shaped grains comprise an inner surface at least partially coated with an ignition enhancing material.

4. (previously presented) The inflation assembly of claim 2 wherein the cylindrical annular-shaped grains form an internal cavity longitudinally extending substantially through the supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material, the inflator additionally comprising an elongated ignition article extending within the internal cavity.

5. (previously presented) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally comprising a gas diffusible containment member within the elongated hollow tubular member and directly adjacently surrounding at least a portion of the supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material.

6. (previously presented) The inflation assembly of claim 5 wherein the gas diffusible containment member comprises an expanded metal.

7. (previously presented) An inflator comprising:  
an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas, the tubular member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 and including a plurality of longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough at least a portion of the supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material can be expelled from the tubular member,

wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is arcuate.

8. (previously presented) An inflation assembly comprising:  
an inflator comprising an elongated hollow tubular member containing  
an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a  
supply of gas, the tubular member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20  
and including a plurality of longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough  
at least a portion of the supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas  
generant material can be expelled from the tubular member and  
an elongated diffuser device secured adjacent the inflator for directing  
at least a portion of gas expelled from the inflator into an associated inflatable device,  
the elongated diffuser device having first and second opposed lateral ends and also  
having first and second longitudinal ends.

9. (original) The inflation assembly of claim 8 additionally  
comprising an associated inflatable device in inflation fluid communication with the  
inflator, wherein inflatable device comprises an inflatable curtain airbag cushion.

Claim 10 (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally comprising an associated inflatable device wherein the associated inflatable device comprises an inflatable curtain airbag cushion.

12. (original) The inflation assembly of claim 11 wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is arcuate.

13. (previously presented) An inflation assembly comprising:  
an inflator comprising an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas, the tubular member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 and including a plurality of longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough at least a portion of the supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material can be expelled from the tubular member and

an elongated discharge treatment element having a length and secured with the tubular member at selected positions along the length of the tubular member, the discharge treatment element effective to treat at least a portion of the gas expelled from the tubular member contacting thereagainst and to deform to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the tubular member and the treatment element, the gas flow

paths spaced apart along the length of the tubular member and the length of the treatment element, the treatment element also directing at least a portion of gas expelled from the tubular member into an associated inflatable device.

14. (original) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally comprising a filter element interposed between the inflator and the discharge treatment element.

15. (original) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally comprising an associated inflatable curtain airbag cushion inflatable device in inflation fluid communication with the inflator.

16. (currently amended) An inflation assembly comprising:  
an elongated inflator having a length, the elongated inflator adapted to provide a gas-containing discharge through selected locations spaced along the length of the inflator;

an elongated discharge treatment element secured with the inflator at selected positions along the length of the inflator and the length of the discharge treatment element, respectively, the discharge treatment element effective to treat at

Serial No.: 09/586,484

least a portion of the gas discharged from the inflator contacting thereagainst and to deform to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the inflator and the treatment element, the gas flow paths spaced apart along the length of the inflator and the length of the treatment element, respectively; and

an inflatable curtain airbag cushion in inflation fluid communication with the inflator.

17. (original) The inflation assembly of claim 16 wherein the inflator comprises an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas.

18. (original) The inflation assembly of claim 17 wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is arcuate.

19. (original) The inflation assembly of claim 16 wherein the inflator is contained within the inflatable curtain airbag cushion.

Claim 20 (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A method of inflating an inflatable device, the method comprising:

reacting an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material within an elongated hollow tubular member of an inflator having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 to produce a supply of gas along the length of the tubular member, and

expelling at least a portion of the supply of gas through selected locations spaced along the length of the inflator,

wherein, subsequent to expulsion from the tubular member, the method additionally comprises:

treating at least a portion of supply of expelled gas to form a treated gas, the treating step including,

contacting expelled gas onto an elongated treatment element adjacent the inflator and

deforming the treatment element to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the inflator and the treatment element, the gas flow paths spaced apart along the respective lengths of the inflator and the treatment element; and

directing the treated gas through the spaced apart gas flow paths into the inflatable device.

Serial No.: 09/586,484

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reacts substantially simultaneously.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the treated gas is directed through the spaced apart gas flow paths into an inflatable curtain airbag cushion inflatable device.

24. (previously presented) A method of inflating an inflatable device, the method comprising:

reacting an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material within an elongated hollow tubular member of an inflator having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 to produce a supply of gas along the length of the tubular member, and

expelling at least a portion of the supply of gas through selected locations spaced along the length of the inflator,

wherein, prior to reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material, the hollow tubular member is bent to conform to an associated inflator-accepting site in an automotive vehicle in which the inflator is placed.



Serial No.: 09/586,484

25. (previously presented) The inflation assembly of claim 13 wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is arcuate.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reacts substantially simultaneously.

27. (previously presented) The inflation assembly of claim 8 wherein the elongated diffuser device and the inflator are secured together at at least one location between the first and second lateral ends of the elongated diffuser device.

28. (currently amended) An ~~The~~ inflation assembly of claim 13 comprising:

an inflator comprising an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas, the tubular member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 and including a plurality of longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough at least a portion of the supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material can be expelled from the tubular member and

an elongated discharge treatment element having a length and secured with the tubular member at selected positions along the length of the tubular member, the discharge treatment element effective to treat at least a portion of the gas expelled from the tubular member contacting thereagainst and to deform to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the tubular member and the treatment element, the gas flow paths spaced apart along the length of the tubular member and the length of the treatment element, the treatment element also directing at least a portion of gas expelled from the tubular member into an associated inflatable device,

wherein the discharge treatment element has first and second opposed lateral ends and also has first and second longitudinal ends.

29. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 24~~ A method of inflating an inflatable device, the method comprising:

reacting an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material within an elongated hollow tubular member of an inflator having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 to produce a supply of gas along the length of the tubular member, and expelling at least a portion of the supply of gas through selected locations spaced along the length of the inflator,

Serial No.: 09/586,484

wherein, subsequent to expulsion from the tubular member, the method additionally comprises:

treating at least a portion of supply of expelled gas to form a treated gas, the treating step including,

contacting expelled gas onto an elongated discharge treatment element adjacent the inflator and

deforming the discharge treatment element to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the inflator and the treatment element, the gas flow paths spaced apart along the respective lengths of the inflator and the treatment element; and

directing the treated gas through the spaced apart gas flow paths into the inflatable device,

wherein the discharge treatment element has first and second opposed lateral ends and also has first and second longitudinal ends and wherein:

in a static state, the first and second longitudinal ends of the discharge treatment element contact the tubular member, and

upon activation, the first and second longitudinal ends of the discharge treatment element deform away from the tubular member to form spaced apart gas flow paths extending: 1) between the tubular member and each of the first and second longitudinal ends of the discharge treatment element, and 2) into the inflatable device.